

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 OMB-01 SY-10 M-03 A-01

OPR-02 OC-06 CCO-00 AID-20 PC-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 NIC-01 EB-11 RSR-01 /182 W

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R 171205Z JUL 73

FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2049

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, MZ

SUBJ: DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST MASSACRE ALLEGATIONS

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 477

1. PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS WERE HELD JULY 16 IN LOURENCO MARQUES, BEIRA, AND INHAMBANE TO PROTEST AGAINST LONDON TIMES ALLEGATIONS OF WIRIYAMU MASSACRE. LOURENCO MARQUES DEMONSTRATION FILLED LARGE PUBLIC SQUARE IN FRONT OF CITY
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HALL, FROM WHOSE BALCONY GOVERNOR GENERAL AND OTHER NOTABLES

ADDRESSED CROWD. LOCAL PAPER ESTIMATED CROWD AT 50,000; WE WOULD GUESS ABOUT HALF THAT. ALL BUSINESS AND FACTORIES CLOSED AT 3:00 P.M. TO PERMIT EMPLOYEES ATTEND DEMONSTRATION, PORT AND SOME FACTORIES SENT LARGE GROUP DELEGATIONS, AND GOVERNMENT TRUCKS WERE USED TO BRING IN PEOPLE; NEVERTHELESS, LINES AT BUS STOPS PRIOR TO DEMONSTRATION SUGGESTED MANY PEOPLE TOOK ADVANTAGE OF EARLY CLOSING TO GO HOME. CROWD ABOUT TWO-THIRDS AFRICAN AND OVERWHELMINGLY CIVILIAN. POLICING LIGHT.

2. DEMONSTRATORS CARRIED BANNERS, LARGELY HOMEMADE, WITH SLOGANS RANGING FROM "VIVA PORTUGAL" TO "BULLSHIT MR. WILSON"; DENUNCIATIONS ALL FIRMLY DIRECTED AGAINST WILSON AND TIMES, NOT AGAINST BRITAIN AS WHOLE. LEAFLETS PASSED OUT TO CROWD (ALONG WITH SMALL FLAGS) SHOWED AFRICAN CIVILIANS MUTILATED BY FRELIMO MINES WITH HEADLINE "WHO REALLY MASSACRES MOZAM-BICAN PEOPLE". MOST DEMONSTRATORS SEEMED IN CHEERFUL, RELAXED MOOD, WITH LITTLE REFLECTION OF THE OFFICIAL ANGRY INDIGNATION; RESTRAINED CLAPPING AND CHEERING WAS CONFINED TO FRONT AND CENTER OF CROWD, WITH REMAINDER ACTING AS SPECTATORS.

3. DEMONSTRATION WAS ADDRESSED FOR FORTY-FIVE MINUTES BY SERIES OF SPEAKERS, BLACK AND WHITE, WHO EXPRESSED PASSIONATE PATRIOTIC AND MULTI-RACIAL SENTIMENTS IN GENERALLY DIS-PASSIONATE FASHION, AND WERE REWARDED BY APPLAUSE WHICH SEEMED MORE POLITE THAN ENTHUSIASTIC. WHOLE AFFAIR CARRIED LIVE ON RADIO, ENABLING SOME OF THE MANY DEMONSTRATORS OUTSIDE RANGE OF LOUDSPEAKERS TO FOLLOW ON THEIR TRANSISTORS. FINAL SPEAKER WAS GOVERNOR GENERAL, WHO DISPLAYED CONSIDERABLY GREATER ORATORICAL SKILL THAN HIS PREDECESSORS, AND AT END SUCCEEDED IN GETTING SOME ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE TO HIS REPEATED SHOUTS OF "LONG LIVE PORTUGAL" AND "DOWN WITH FRELIMO". THEN CROWD DISPERSED RAPIDLY AND GOOD HUMOREDLY.

4. BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL WAS NOT IN ANY WAY MOLESTED, NOR DID IT TAKE ANY SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS, AND LOCAL PRESS ON DAY OF DEMONSTRATION GAVE FULL AND FRIENDLY COVERAGE TO CONGEN BYATT'S FAREWELL INTERVIEW. ACCORDING TO PRESS, BEIRA AND INHAMBANE WERE SCENE OF SIMULTANEOUS, BUT SMALLER, DEMONSTRATIONS.

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TM COMMENT: PROTEST, IN LOURENCO MARQUES AT ANY RATE, THUS SEEMED TO BE RITUAL OCCASION LAID ON FOR THE RECORD, WITH LITTLE OR NO SERIOUS EFFORT WHIP UP CROWD. MUTED MOZAMBIQUE PUBLIC INDIGNATION WITH TREATMENT BEING ACCORDED PORTUGAL IN BRITISH PRESS EXPLAINABLE IN PART BY FACT THAT LOCAL MEDIA, WHILE GIVING HEAVY PLAY TO ANGRY AND SCORNFUL DENUNCIATIONS OF MASSACRE ALLEGATIONS (INCLUDING USUAL RITUAL MESSAGES

AND TELEGRAMS SENT AROUND BY INDIVIDUALS AND PUBLIC BODIES),
HAS AS USUAL PROVIDED ONLY RATHER VAGUE AND FRAGMENTARY DETAILS
ABOUT ALLEGATIONS THEMSELVES. MOREOVER, HARSH CHARGES AGAINST
PORTUGAL IN FOREIGN PRESS ARE HARDLY NEW PHENOMENON.
VAN OSS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LOUREN00482
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LOURENCO MARQUES
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730729/aaaaavaj.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 LOURENCO MARQUES 477
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Sep-2001 by freemaal>; APPROVED <29-Oct-2001 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST MASSACRE ALLEGATIONS
TAGS: PINS, MZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005